

# Transferability of Social Rights in International Migration Contexts: A Systematic Reviews of Effectiveness Challenges

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## **Transferability of Social Rights in International Migration Contexts: A Systematic Reviews of Effectiveness Challenges**

### **Abstract**

This study investigates the critical intersection of international migration and social security, focusing on the transferability and effectiveness of social rights for migrants. It examines core concepts such as the human need for security, the role of social security systems, and the influence of such protection on migration, alongside the function of international social security agreements designed to uphold principles like equal treatment and portability of rights. The central research question guiding this inquiry is whether international migrants, in practice, benefit from social protection and the transferability of their social rights in full accordance with the principles of equity and equality proclaimed by international instruments. To address this, the methodology employed is a systematic review of existing scientific literature, synthesizing and critically evaluating empirical and theoretical studies. The anticipated results will illuminate the practical extent to which these proclaimed rights are realized, detailing current access, identifying challenges, barriers, and disparities in migrants' access to social protection, and ultimately assessing the gap between the theoretical framework of social rights and the lived experiences of mobile populations, thereby shedding light on current challenges and prospects for improvement.

**Keywords:** migration, social security, transferability, rights, convention.

**JEL Classification:** F22, F55, H55

**Paper type:** Theoretical research

### **Résumé :**

Cette étude examine l'intersection cruciale de la migration internationale et de la sécurité sociale, en se concentrant sur la transférabilité et l'effectivité des droits sociaux pour les migrants. Elle explore les concepts clés tels que le besoin humain de sécurité, le rôle des systèmes de sécurité sociale et l'influence d'une telle protection sur la migration, ainsi que la fonction des conventions internationales de sécurité sociale conçues pour garantir les principes d'égalité de traitement et de portabilité des droits. La question de recherche centrale qui guide cette étude est de savoir si les migrants internationaux, dans la pratique, bénéficient d'une protection sociale et d'une transférabilité de leurs droits sociaux qui respectent pleinement les principes d'équité et d'égalité proclamés par les instruments internationaux. Pour y répondre, la méthodologie employée est une revue systématique de la littérature scientifique existante, synthétisant et évaluant de manière critique les études empiriques et théoriques. Les résultats escomptés devraient éclairer la mesure pratique dans laquelle ces droits proclamés sont concrétisés, en détaillant l'accès actuel, en identifiant les défis, les obstacles et les disparités dans l'accès des migrants à la protection sociale, et enfin en évaluant l'écart entre le cadre théorique des droits sociaux et les expériences vécues des populations mobiles, mettant ainsi en lumière les défis actuels et les perspectives d'amélioration.

**Mots clés :** migration, sécurité sociale, transférabilité, droits, convention.

**Classification JEL :** F22, F55, H55

**Type de l'article :** Recherche théorique

## 1. Introduction

The quest for security is a fundamental human need, a foundation that allows individuals not only to survive but also to thrive. In contemporary societies, social security embodies this aspiration, positioning itself as a primary and indispensable mechanism for the well-being of populations. It provides collective protection against various life hazards, such as illness, old age, unemployment, family responsibilities, and workplace accidents, thus contributing to social cohesion and human dignity.

The appeal of a robust social protection system is undeniable and can, in certain contexts, add to the complex array of factors—economic, political, environmental, or cultural—that influence international migration dynamics. Indeed, the prospect of benefiting from extensive social security coverage can be a determining factor in the decision to migrate, as individuals legitimately seek to secure their future and that of their families. However, according to the International Labor Organization, nearly 55% of the world's population lacks access to any form of social protection, highlighting persistent inequalities in this area.

Several studies have highlighted the structuring role of social security in social cohesion and human dignity (Barr, 2012; Esping-Andersen, 1998). Its attractiveness is particularly pronounced in migratory contexts, where it can add to the complex set of economic, political, environmental, and cultural factors that influence international migration dynamics (de Haas, 2021). For many migrants, the prospect of benefiting from extensive social coverage is a determining factor in the decision to migrate, particularly to secure their future and that of their families. (Sabates-Wheeler et al., 2011)

However, migrants' access to social protection is severely limited by a combination of barriers. Legally, they face restrictive regulations and a lack of equal treatment, as shown by an ILO study. Furthermore, they are often concentrated in precarious economic sectors (domestic work, agriculture) with temporary contracts, a situation that particularly affects women. Finally, the lack of coordination between countries and the weak enforcement of existing laws exacerbate their vulnerability. (ILO, 2022)

To overcome these difficulties, international social security agreements have been developed. These legal instruments aim to coordinate national legislation to ensure adequate social protection for people moving between signatory countries. Their fundamental principles are based on equal treatment between nationals and non-nationals, the determination of a single applicable legislation, the maintenance of acquired rights, and the aggregation of insurance or employment periods for the acquisition of rights (the principle of portability of rights). Despite the existence of these mechanisms, several empirical studies highlight the persistence of obstacles to the effectiveness of social protection for international migrants, whether they involve administrative barriers, coordination gaps, or indirect discrimination.

In light of this observation, this study aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of international migrants' social protection rights. More specifically, our central objective is to answer the following question: Do international migrants benefit, in practice, from social protection and the portability of their social rights in accordance with the principles of fairness and equality proclaimed by international instruments?

To address this question, this article offers a systematic review of the scientific literature. This methodological approach was chosen because it allows for a rigorous and transparent synthesis of a vast and often fragmented body of knowledge. It is particularly suited to identifying consensus, controversies and, above all, gaps in existing research on the effectiveness of migrant social protection.

Our review focused on published empirical and theoretical studies, extracted from leading academic databases (such as Scopus, Web of Science, and PubMed) using a search strategy

combining keywords related to migration, social security, and the portability of rights. The inclusion criteria prioritized works analyzing the mechanisms.

## 2. Literature review

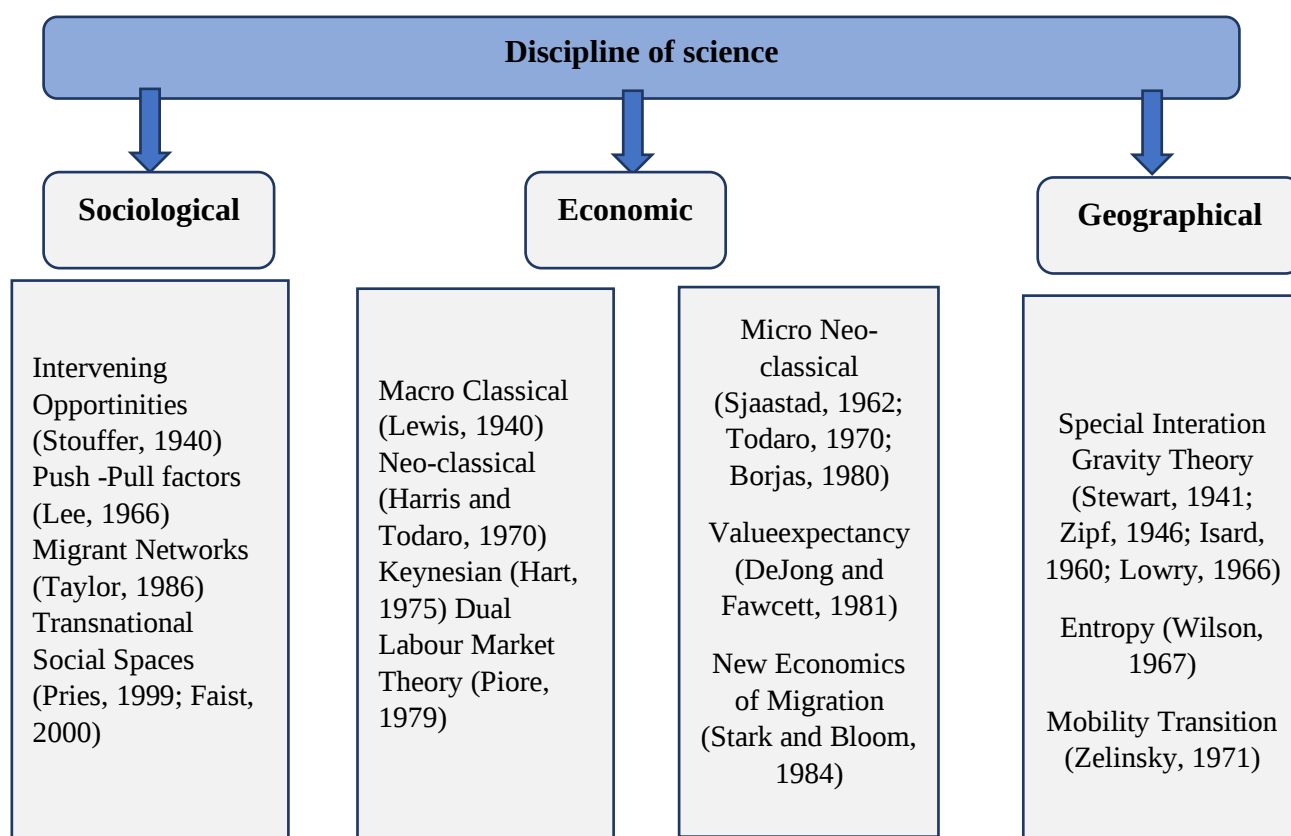
### 2.1 International migration

The action of moving a person from one place to another is called a “migration”, but this expression has been used much more to explain the movements of people from one country to another, or from one city to another, we are talking, thus, about a national or international migration.

the reasons for this migration can be various, and can result from several aspects, economic, political or social (in search of a job or as part of studies....), and it can be either collective or individual, voluntary or forced, definitive, provisional or circular. In any case, migration constitutes both for the migrant and for the host countries, a means of sustainable development, through the transfer of skills, the strengthening of the workforce...

Many theoretical models have been put up to explain the origins of international migration, and several researchers have tried to explain this (Douglas S. Massey, Saskia Sassen, Stephen Castles, Mark J. Miller, J.Bijak....) They are trying to explain why people move from one country to another. These models are developed on the basis of various disciplines such as economics, sociology, geography and political science. Here are some key theoretical models of international migration:

*Figure 1: Discipline of science*



*Source: Bijak, 2006amended*

#### 2.1.1 Sociological théories

Sociological theories of international migration are used to explain the reasons, composition

and elements that influence the decision to move, as well as the choice of destination of the migrant population that crosses state borders. (Sociological Theories of International Migration: The Case of Refugees, s. d.)

Stouffer (1940, 1960), considering internal migration, related mobility and distance, while introducing the concept of intervening opportunities. Lee (1966), building on Ravenstein's observations, offered a model of migration which linked positive and negative factors at the areas of origin and destination with the decision to migrate, taking into account intervening obstacles and personal factors. He related the volume of migration to the diversity of the territory and the composition of its population, to fluctuations in the economy and to difficulties in surmounting intervening obstacles.

With the emergence of the "new migration economy", it has been revealed that migration decisions are not the result of isolated individuals. On the contrary, they are taken by family units or households, where the members collectively act as a "migrant network". This approach highlights the fact that the motivations go beyond the simple maximization of income. Migrants also aim to minimize risks and circumvent constraints related to market failures, going beyond the labor market alone (Taylor, 1986). (Massey et al., 1993)

by Pries (1999) and Faist (2000), proposes a theory who calls The "Transnational Social Spaces" theory, who explain that migration leads to the creation of new social spaces that transcend national borders and connect people across geographical distances. These spaces are characterized by transnational social practices, institutions, and relationships.

This theory highlights the dynamic and interconnected nature of migration in a globalized world. It underscores the significance of transnational social practices, institutions, and identities in shaping the experiences of migrants and the relationships between sending and receiving societies.

### **2.1.2 Economic théories**

The economic analysis of intra-population movements in developing countries (PED) was formalized for the first time in the 1950s. Worker mobility is considered as a reallocation of labor between the rural sector (mainly agriculture) and the urban sector (mainly industry). (Lewis, 1954). In this model, in an economy assuming full employment, migration occurs due to differences in marginal labor productivity, as well as differences in wages between the two sectors. The coexistence of large-scale rural migration and increasing urban unemployment in many developing countries during the 1960s raised questions about the validity of these models. Thus, the first probabilistic models emerged between the theory of migration and that of job search (Todaro, 1969; Harris and Todaro, 1970). The model suggested by Todaro has various hypotheses. First, he suggests that young people are more inclined to migrate than older people, and that an individual's human capital (depending on their level of education and professional experience) favors migration, because it increases the expected salary and the probability of finding a job. These hypotheses imply that individuals from the same region or the same country do not have the same expectations of migration.

As a result, the decrease in the net profit expected by the populations remains the only solution to act on their migration. (Gubert, 2010)

In 1979, a new way of analyzing the economic motivations of migrants appeared, that of the "theory of the double labor market" (Piore, 1979) according to which international migration is mainly due to factors of attraction in the host countries.

According to this theory, we can classify the segments of the labor markets in these countries into primary or secondary.

The main segment is distinguished by production techniques that require highly qualified human capital. The secondary segment is distinguished by labor-intensive production methods that require predominantly low-skilled human capital (labor). According to this theory,

international labor mobility arises from the demand of the secondary segment, the labor-intensive one of industrial companies.(Porumbescu, 2015)

Microeconomic theories are different from the macroeconomic one, in fact the latter explains migration in the context of economic development, while the first focuses on the individual rationality of migrants, taking into account the perceived personal benefits.

The theory of human capital (Sjaastad, 1962) is based on the idea that the social status and demographic characteristics of each individual play an essential role in the migration process. According to this theory, the probability of migratory activity decreases with the aging of the elderly, which corresponds to the reduction in the period during which income can actually be achieved. In addition, individuals with a higher level of education have a greater probability of migrating because their knowledge and intellectual training, as well as their ability to accumulate new information, reduce the risks associated with migration. It is possible to use the theory of human capital not only to explain permanent or definitive migration, but also to defend other types of migratory behaviors, such as circulatory migration or temporaries. De moreover, the theory of human capital makes the greatest contribution to the introduction of a new type of sociological approach to international migration: we must not limit ourselves to the analysis of labor market variables (salary, unemployment) but also to the analysis of the individual socio-economic conditions of migrants.(Porumbescu, 2018)

### **2.1.3 Géographycal theories**

Geographical theory has a crucial role in understanding international migration patterns and defining the motivations of migrants. Here are several theories that study the influence of geography in international migration, in particular, Special Interaction Gravity Theory, developed by researchers such as Stewart (1941), Zipf (1946), Isard (1960) and Lowry (1966), In it is used used to predict migration between citys.(White, 2016)

This theory is inspired by the laws of gravity in physics, where the "forces" of attraction between places are determined by their population and their distance.

IN 1967 Wilson revised this domain by using entropy maximization techniques to derive a family of spatial interaction models that was a major innovation in urban and regional modeling. This method makes it possible to create models that better reflect human behaviors by taking into account uncertainties and variations in the data.(O'Kelly, 2010)

The Mobility Transition, proposed by Zelinsky in 1971, describes how migration models evolve with the economic and social development of a region. Zelinsky identifies several phases in which internal and international migration varies depending on the level of development of a country. This theory emphasizes that human mobility is often linked to demographic and economic transformations, suggesting that societies go through different stages of migration as they modernize.

## **2.2 the transferability of social rights**

Globalization and the changing labor market have made the movement of workers increasingly common. These movements are driven by various factors and have multiple impacts on individuals, businesses and societies.

During these movements, workers face a major challenge: the fragmentation of their social rights. Indeed, they are often forced to contribute to new social security schemes in their host country, which leads to a loss of rights acquired in their country of origin. This situation creates inequalities and social insecurity for mobile workers, who often have to start from scratch to benefit from benefits such as pensions, unemployment benefits or health care.

To address this constraint, social security conventions are concluded between States in order to guarantee the portability of social rights of mobile workers and to avoid double contributions.

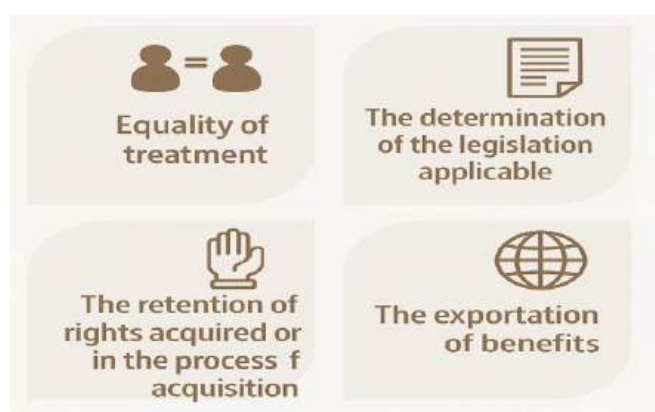
These international agreements aim to coordinate the different social security schemes to ensure continuous social protection for workers who move from one country to another.

### 2.2.1 The role and principles of international social security conventions:

The coordination of social security systems between different countries aims to overcome the specific challenges faced by migrants, particularly due to their status as foreigners. These mechanisms, which do not change the structure of national schemes or the amounts or conditions for granting benefits, only intervene when there is a cross-border factor. Their essential role is to guarantee fair treatment for migrants. In short, while social security remains a national competence, its coordination is part of an international framework, based on cooperation between States.

The social security conventions have the following roles:

*Figure2: The objectives of bilateral conventions*



*Source: (OIT & CIFOIT, 2019)*

### 2.2.2 Social Security Conventions in Morocco: An Overview

Faced with the challenges posed by the increasing mobility of Moroccan workers and the significant presence of a Moroccan diaspora abroad, Morocco has undertaken an active policy of international cooperation in the area of social security.

*Table 1: list of international conventions concluded by Morocco*

| Convention  | Signing date     |
|-------------|------------------|
| Algeria     | 23 février 1991  |
| Germany     | 25 mars 1981     |
| Belgium     | 24 juin 1968     |
| Canada      | 01 juillet 1998  |
| Denmark     | 24 avril 1982    |
| Egypt       | 12 mai 2006      |
| Spain       | 08 novembre 1979 |
| France      | 09 juillet 1965  |
| Libya       | 04 août 1983     |
| Luxembourg  | 06 octobre 2006  |
| Netherlands | 14 février 1972  |
| Portugal    | 14 novembre 1998 |
| Quebec      | 25 mai 2000      |
| Romania     | 27 juillet 1983  |
| Sweden      | 04 janvier 1980  |
| Tunisia     | 05 février 1987  |

*Source: cnss.ma*

This approach began in 1965 with the signing of its first bilateral agreement with France, the country hosting the largest number of Moroccan nationals at the time. Since then, Morocco has continued this commitment by concluding, ratifying and implementing numerous other bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to ensure better social protection for its expatriate citizens.

### 3. Research methodology

This study is based on a systemic methodology, resulting from the adaptation of Kitchenham's systematic review and Petersen's systematic mapping methods. The objective is to identify trends, research gaps, as well as elements of innovation and transferability in the literature. To carry out this analysis, we will use the SALSA approach (Search, Appraisal, Synthesis, Analysis), a method structured in four phases of evaluation: documentary collection, selection of relevant sources, synthesis and data analysis. This approach focuses on the concrete steps of the evaluation. It begins with a documentary research phase (Search) aimed at gathering an initial set of publications.

Then, during the evaluation phase (Appraisal), the collected articles are examined in order to eliminate those that do not meet the relevance criteria. Finally, the synthesis and analysis phases consist of extracting the essential information from the selected articles and drawing conclusions for the production of the final report. (García-Holgado et al., 2020)

**Tableau 2: The SALSA framework**

| Step      | Outcome                                          | Methods                                              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Search    | Search strategy<br>Literature selection criteria | Exhaustive string search                             |
| Appraisal | Quality assessment and selection                 | Inclusion and exclusion of studies based on criteria |
| Synthesis | Extraction and categorization of data            | Graphical and tabular representations                |
| Analysis  | Data analysis                                    | Quantitative categories and narrative analysis       |

*Source: (Kaushik et al., 2022)*

#### 3.1 Search:

This study aims to systemically analyze the challenges and opportunities related to the transfer of social rights for migrants across diverse migration contexts. To define the research question, we will use the SPICE method (Setting, Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Evaluation). This framework offers a step-by-step approach to formulate practical questions in order to find evidence in existing research. (NCCMT, s. d.)

**Table 3: The SALSA Structure**

|                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| S: Setting                | Potential migrants                |
| P: Phenomenon of Interest | Migration decision                |
| I: Intervention           | Transferability of social rights  |
| C: Context                | International migration context   |
| E: Evaluation             | Impact on the decision to migrate |

*Source: by the author*

We can therefore state the research question as follows: "How does the portability of social rights acquired in the country of origin (I) influence the decision to migrate (E) among individuals considering leaving their country of origin (S) in a context of increasing globalization (C)?"

To answer this question, we will use the following databases: PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, JSTOR, and Google Scholar, combining the following keywords: migration, social rights, and portability. Thus, the equation will encompass the aforementioned terms using synonyms and expressions related to these concepts, such as 'migrant,' 'immigrant,' 'refugee,' 'portability of rights,' 'access to social services,' 'social integration,' 'vulnerability,' and 'discrimination,' and using Boolean operators such as (AND, OR, NOT) to combine these terms effectively.

Reference management will be carried out on Zotero.

### 3.2 Appraisal:

To select relevant articles, we will use the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) method. The recommendations of this method precisely define the crucial steps for identifying and selecting relevant articles. The process, summarized by the PRISMA flowchart, consists of four main phases:

**Identification:** A comprehensive search of references in one or more databases, depending on the scope of the systematic review.

**Selection:** Evaluation of the identified references, based on reading titles and abstracts. This step includes removing duplicates when multiple databases were searched.

**Eligibility:** A thorough review of the selected articles, through full-text reading, to determine their relevance.

**Inclusion:** Final inclusion of studies meeting the selection criteria for analysis and synthesis. (Mateo, 2020)

The inclusion and exclusion criteria are as follows:

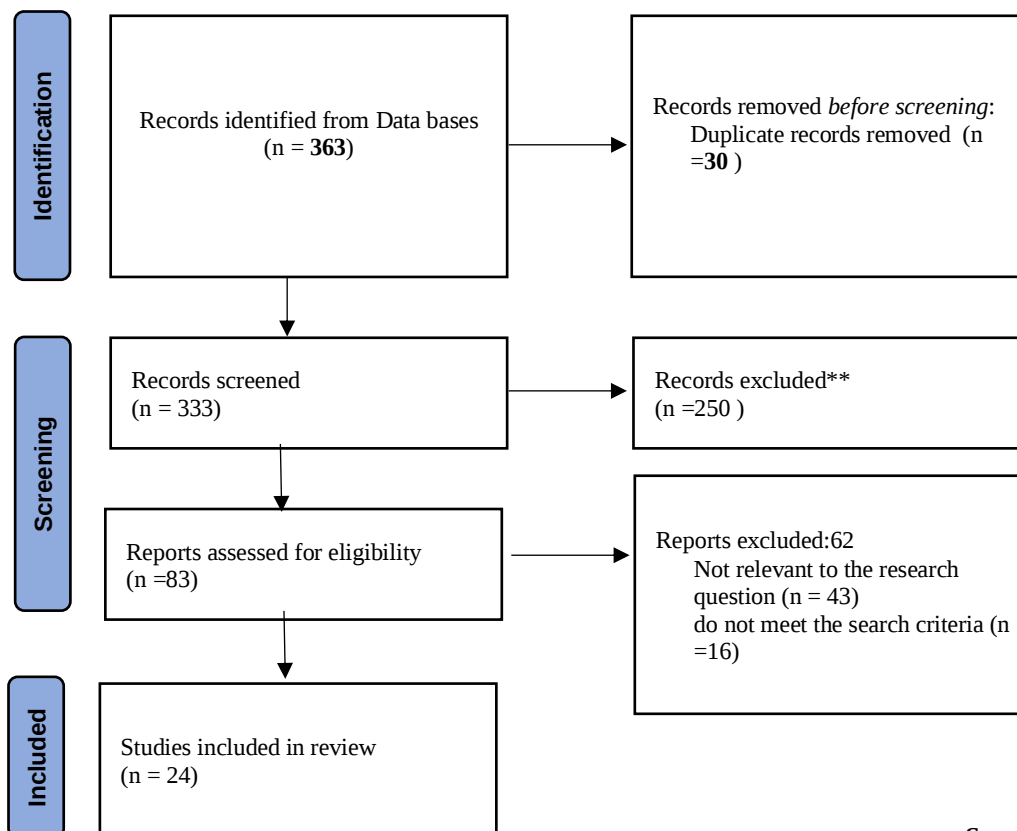
**Table 4: Description of the study**

| Criteria                           | Description                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Language                           | English                                       |
| Type of study                      | All types of studies                          |
| Publication date                   | All years                                     |
| Relevance to the research question | Alignment with the specific research question |

*Source: by the author*

The result obtained is as follows:

**Figure 3: Scientific article selected**



*Source: by the author*

## 4. Synthesis and Analysis

The analysis of the selected scientific articles has shown that international migration raises crucial and complex questions regarding the transferability and effectiveness of social rights for individuals crossing borders. Far from being an automatic process, the ability of migrants to benefit from equivalent or adequate social protection in their host country is an endeavor fraught with pitfalls, marked by multiple structural and individual challenges.

It is clear from the research examined that access to healthcare, a fundamental social right, often proves to be limited and stratified. Immigration policies, legal status, and the employment situation of migrants significantly shape their ability to access health services. Studies highlight that practical barriers, such as linguistic and cultural difficulties, exacerbate this exclusion. Even when rights formally exist, their application can be hindered by restrictive legal frameworks or by a contradiction between the professional ethics of caregivers and political imperatives.

Beyond health, the analysis has highlighted that broader social protection, including housing, labor rights, and social benefits, is also a major issue. Migrant workers, particularly those identified in studies as working in sectors such as agriculture or low-skilled services, face precarity and working conditions that limit their access to effective social protection. Housing itself, an essential condition for health equity and social inclusion, can become a source of vulnerability. Examination of situations, including within supposedly integrated economic areas, reveals that citizenship of a member state does not always guarantee full social protection in another member state, sometimes compelling migrants to develop transnational strategies to secure their rights.

The analyzed articles confirm that the legal status of migrants appears as a central determinant of their access to social rights. The absence of legal status or a precarious status constitutes a major obstacle, not only to health but also to stable employment and protection against exploitation. National immigration, integration, and employment policies, as well as the institutional frameworks of host countries, decisively shape migrants' ability to assert their rights. Migrants' own choices may be influenced by their perception of social protection systems and asylum policies, although immediate safety may take precedence over other considerations.

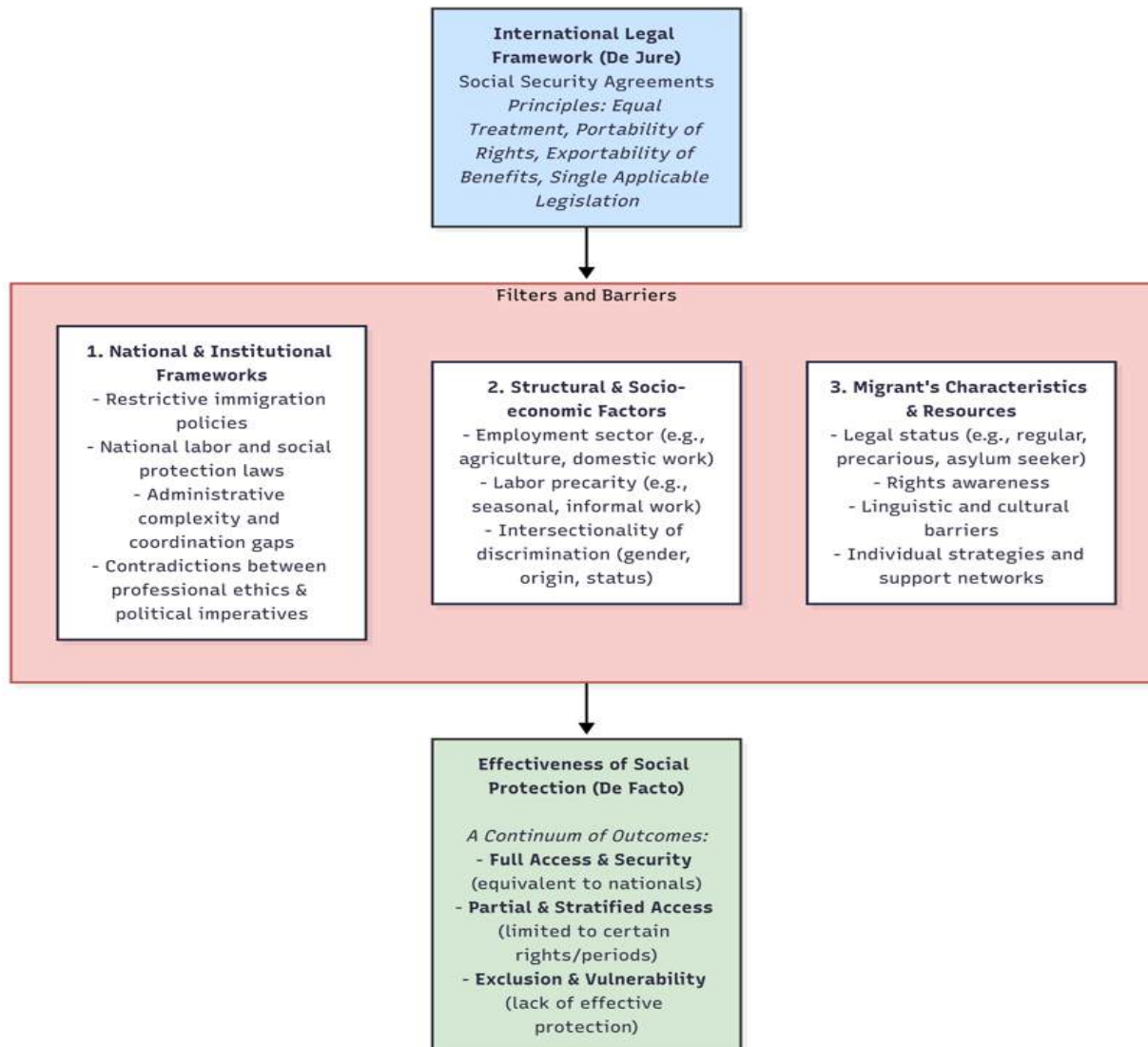
The analysis also stressed that the mere existence of rights does not guarantee their effective enjoyment if migrants are unaware of them. Understanding the host country's social protection systems is a key factor for migrants' well-being, a point highlighted in research on rights awareness. Faced with these obstacles, migrants are not always passive and sometimes deploy strategies to navigate complex systems and claim their rights.

Furthermore, the studies reviewed indicate that certain groups, such as low-skilled workers, refugees, or migrant women, face increased vulnerabilities that further impede their access to social rights, due to intersecting discriminations or particularly unfavorable employment conditions. This interaction of factors leads to a significant stratification of access to rights, where nationality, legal status, gender, skill level, and employment sector largely determine the level of social protection a migrant can benefit from.

Ultimately, the analysis has shown that the transferability of social rights in the migratory context is a complex concept that goes beyond the mere administrative portability of acquired benefits, such as pensions. It encompasses the real capacity to access and enjoy a set of fundamental protections.

National and international legal frameworks, public policies, rights awareness, and socio-economic dynamics interact to create an often unequal landscape, where the promise of universal social rights struggles to materialize for many migrants, as demonstrated by the various studies examined.

**Figure 4: theoretical framework**



**Source: by the author**

The analysis of the selected article summaries allowed the following synthesis to emerge:

**Table 5: summary of studies**

| <b>Title</b>                                                                                                                                                 | <b>author</b>                | <b>Study Objectives</b>                                                             | <b>Methodology</b>                            | <b>Results</b>                                                             | <b>Study Limitations</b>                | <b>Contributions</b>                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Social exclusion at the intersections of immigration, employment, and healthcare policy: A qualitative study of Mexican and Chinese immigrants in California | (Nakphong et al., 2022)      | Study healthcare exclusion among Mexican and Chinese immigrants in California       | Qualitative study (60 interviews)             | Healthcare access depends on legal status and employment                   | Sample limited to two ethnic groups     | Challenges the legal/illegal binary in migration                   |
| Housing, health equity, and global capitalist power: Migrant farmworkers in Canada                                                                           | (Weiler & Caxaj, 2024)       | Explore the link between housing, health, and global capitalism for migrant workers | Interviews with 151 migrant workers           | Three themes: precariousness, paternalism, lack of political participation | Specific to Canada, limited sample      | Equity model incorporating political economy                       |
| Response to provide key health services to Ukrainian refugees: The overview and implementation studies                                                       | (Biesiada et al., 2023)      | Assess healthcare for Ukrainian refugees in Poland                                  | Surveys with 402 doctors (2022-2023)          | Language barriers, lack of medical records                                 | Study limited to Poland                 | Need for systemic solutions to improve healthcare                  |
| Challenges in the provision of healthcare services for migrants: a systematic review through providers' lens                                                 | (Suphanchaimat et al., 2015) | Identify healthcare providers' challenges in treating migrants                      | Systematic review (37 articles)               | Language barriers, resource shortages, ethical/legal conflicts             | Lack of comparative studies             | Importance of training for healthcare providers                    |
| The UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health: the health of a world on the move                                                                         | (Abubakar et al., 2018)      | Analyze migration's effects on global health                                        | Literature review and expert consultations    | Migration benefits economies but some migrants are vulnerable              | Lack of data on certain populations     | Policy recommendations to integrate migration into health policies |
| Flourishing: migration and health in social context                                                                                                          | (Willen et al., 2021)        | Explore the relationship between migration and personal well-being                  | Case studies in three regions                 | Limited healthcare access for vulnerable migrants                          | Limited qualitative data                | Strategies to improve migrant healthcare access                    |
| Social justice, climate change, and dengue                                                                                                                   | (Chang et al., 2014)         | Examine climate change's impact on dengue                                           | Analysis of climate and social factors        | Increased dengue cases due to migration and climate changes                | Lack of precise data for some countries | Social approach to combating dengue                                |
| International migration and health: the contribution of migration social theories to public health decisions                                                 | (Cabieses et al., 2018)      | Study the role of migration theories in public health decisions                     | Narrative review of social migration theories | Migrants' health depends on public policies                                | Studies limited to Latin America        | Reinforces the importance of inclusive health policies             |

|                                                                                                                                                                    |                                 |                                                                     |                                             |                                                                  |                                          |                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Migrant-sensitive healthcare in Europe: advancing health equity through accessibility, acceptability, quality, and trust                                           | (Savas et al., 2024)            | Promote health equity for migrants in Europe                        | Analysis of existing policies and practices | Accessibility, acceptability, and quality of care remain limited | Difficulty in sustainable implementation | Proposes a human rights-based approach                         |
| On the Fringes of Social Protection: New Southern European Labour Migration to Germany                                                                             | (Castellani, 2025)              | Analyze social protection for Southern European migrants in Germany | Qualitative-ethnographic study              | Difficulty accessing social protection                           | Limited sample                           | Transnational strategies for social protection                 |
| What Are Asylum Seekers' Priorities: Security or Social Benefits?                                                                                                  | (Diop-Christensen & Diop, 2022) | Analyze asylum seekers' priorities                                  | HCR data analysis (2008-2015)               | Security takes precedence over social aid                        | Study limited to EU-15 countries         | Impact of policies on migration flows                          |
| International immigrants in Paraná, Brazil: Social rights and labor insertion in the COVID-19 pandemic                                                             | (Da Motta et al., 2021)         | Study COVID-19's impact on migrant rights in Brazil                 | Bibliographic research and context analysis | Hyper-vulnerability of migrants in Paraná                        | Focus on a single Brazilian state        | Highlights inequalities reinforced by the pandemic             |
| Reinforcing protective structures against labor exploitation of seasonal workers. Social innovation research in South Tyrol                                        | (Zadra & Elsen, 2025)           | Study protection mechanisms for seasonal workers in Italy           | Action research (FARm project)              | Exploitation depends on institutional frameworks                 | Study focused on one Italian region      | Collaborative approach to reducing labor exploitation          |
| Unpacking migrants' social integration: The mediating effect of hierarchical migration in the context of China                                                     | (Cui et al., 2025)              | Analyze migrant integration in China                                | Survey data analysis (2017)                 | Hierarchical migration impacts social integration                | Limited sample in China                  | Influence of migration patterns on integration                 |
| Can social protection contribute to social connectedness in contexts of forced displacement and crisis? Lessons from Jordan's labelled cash transfer for education | (Abu Hamad et al., 2025)        | Study the impact of a social protection program in Jordan           | Survey of 996 Syrian adolescents            | Moderate improvement in social connectivity                      | Results vary by age group                | Importance of cash transfers for social cohesion               |
| Changing spatial inclusion of migrants in Chinese cities: How housing matters                                                                                      | (Zhang et al., 2025)            | Explore migrants' spatial inclusion in China                        | Analysis of 2010-2020 census data           | Housing and social inclusion are linked                          | Focus on two Chinese cities              | Policy recommendations for inclusive housing                   |
| Does social embeddedness shape attitudes toward migrants? Evidence from a survey experiment in the United Kingdom                                                  | (Igarashi & Creighton, 2025)    | Analyze how migrants' social integration affects public attitudes   | Conjoint analysis in the UK                 | Positive perception of socially integrated migrants              | Data limited to the UK                   | Highlights the role of social integration in shaping attitudes |
| The vulnerability of migrant women working in agriculture in Spain                                                                                                 | (Loezar-Hernández et al., 2025) | Study the vulnerability of migrant women in agriculture             | 87 semi-structured interviews               | Harassment and job precarity                                     | Sample limited to certain regions        | Calls for protective labor policies                            |

|                                                                                                                                     |                       |                                                                     |                                         |                                                            |                                   |                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| The Future of International Labor Migration                                                                                         | (Salt, 1992)          | Analyze current labor migration trends                              | Literature review                       | Shift towards highly skilled migration                     | Lack of recent data               | Discussion of economic migration dynamics          |
| Employment of return migrants in Turkey: Evidence from the labour force survey                                                      | (Aker & Görmüş, 2018) | Study the employment situation of return migrants in Turkey         | Labor force survey data analysis        | Return migrants face more employment challenges            | Data specific to Turkey           | Impact of policies on migrants' reintegration      |
| Social transformation and human mobility: Reflections on the past, present and future of migration                                  | (Castles, 2024)       | Examine global migration changes since 1940                         | Historical analysis                     | Migration is diversifying and evolving                     | Broad coverage, lacks recent data | Insights into long-term migration trends           |
| Retirement of the Migrant Labor Force: Pension Portability and Beyond                                                               | (Jousten, 2015)       | Study the portability of pensions for migrant workers               | Social security policy analysis         | EU coordination mechanisms influence decisions             | Focused on Europe                 | Policy implications for migrant retirement systems |
| Which Integration Policies Work? The Heterogeneous Impact of National Institutions on Immigrants' Labor Market Attainment in Europe | (Platt et al., 2022)  | Evaluate integration policies in Europe                             | Analysis of 6,176 non-European migrants | Anti-discrimination policies improve labor market outcomes | Limited to specific countries     | Shows role of policies in migrants' career success |
| The impact of migrants' knowledge about their social rights on their subjective wellbeing                                           | (Seibel, 2023)        | Analyze the effect of social rights awareness on migrant well-being | MIFARE survey data (9 countries)        | Better access to resources = higher well-being             | Variations across countries       | Importance of informing migrants about rights      |

Source: by the author

## 5. Conclusion :

Recent studies confirm that international migration poses major challenges in terms of the portability of social rights, particularly for retirement benefits and access to healthcare. The aging of migrant populations emphasizes the urgency of establishing bilateral and multilateral agreements guaranteeing the continuity of social rights between host and origin countries. These mechanisms are based on essential principles such as reciprocity and the aggregation of employment periods.

However, the implementation of these agreements remains complex, dependent both on strong political will and coordination between often heterogeneous social security systems. At the same time, many migrants, particularly those in precarious or irregular situations, continue to be excluded from protection systems, victims of legal, administrative, and cultural barriers.

In this context, migration governance based on human rights is essential. It must guarantee equal treatment, effective access to universal social protection, and the integration of migrants into social systems. The portability of social rights can no longer be considered a secondary technical issue, but rather a central lever for social justice, international cohesion, and sustainable inclusion. To achieve this, strengthened international cooperation, modernized agreements, and renewed political commitment are essential for building a new social contract on migration.

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